

(4) Corruption should be prevented by means of a legislative enactment like the *firman* of H. E. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad to enable the people to bring their grievances to the notice of the Government and get them effectively redressed.

(5) The salaries of high-paid servants should be reduced and those of low-paid servants suitably raised. The maximum pay of the heads of Departments should be Rs. 500, while the Dewan's pay should not exceed Rs. 1,000.

(6) Responsible government should be established in the State.

Mr. G. Venu Vadhyar (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) said that his community, viz., that of the Gaudasaraswat Brahmins, was backward in education, but that, of late, a few members of that community had received good education and become qualified for the public service. The Member prayed that sufficient encouragement might be given to his community and that appointments be conferred on those who were qualified for the same.

Mr. Ulahannan Ulahannan (Member, Minachil taluk), in dealing with the subject of communal representation in the matter of appointments in the public service, stated that Christians formed a large portion of the population of the State, and that, among the Christians themselves, Roman Catholics formed the majority. As Christians were strong both numerically and educationally, they deserved much better encouragement in the matter of appointments in the public service than they received at present. As a means of removing the existing inequalities in the public service, the Member recommended that for the next seven years all caste Hindus excepting Malayala Brahmins should be excluded from all departments of the State service except the Devaswom Department.

Mr. C. P. Tarakan (Member, Kunnatnad taluk) laid special stress on the need for a strict observance of the provisions of the rule regarding age-limit in the public service. No one who had shown clannishness in the distribution of the loaves and fishes of office should be retained beyond his 35th year. He said that on account of the non-observance of that golden rule the High Court had suffered in prestige. He could not understand why the majority of the official reporting staff of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should come from a particular community. He then spoke about the hardship caused to the people by the working of the *Civil Courts' Guide* and, as the grievances of the public had been ably dealt with, he did not want to elaborate on that point. The next point of his complaint was that printed forms for the disbursement of interest on the debenture loan raised by the State were not available, which put the people to great hardship. The Member also alluded to the unsatisfactory work of the Police Department.

95. Defects in some branches of the public service and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. M. L. Janardana Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) stated that he would like to make a few preliminary observations on some general questions. He said that the shorthand writers' notes taken in the Assembly were far from accurate and suggested that they should be corrected by the members before publication, as was generally done in the case of notes taken by official reporters in the Legislative Council. Another observation made by the Member was that, even though immediate replies were given to representations, there was great delay in giving practical effect to them.

Referring to the District and Assistant Superintendents in the Police Department, the Member observed that the object with which the posts of Assistant Superintendents had been created could very well be achieved by the head clerks of the offices concerned and that officers on such fat salaries were not needed. The Member was of opinion that they should be given efficient police service in the several taluks. The difficulty experienced by the people in regard to complaints lodged with the police was next touched upon. Constables, he asserted, were making a good income out of those complaints and the suffering to which people were put was intense, especially when many constables conducted repeated enquiries into one and the same complaint. The enquiry should always be conducted by the Police Inspectors in charge of the stations themselves. If the complaints received in a station were too

many for the Inspector, a responsible and reliable head constable should be entrusted with the enquiry. A circular should be issued to the effect that low subordinates should not conduct such enquiry on any account whatever. He then stated that the Government should pay attention to, and take action on, articles published in newspapers about policemen. The people should also be given an opportunity to lodge complaints against police officers without being obliged to take the sanction of the Government. Sometimes respectable persons and at other times innocent people fell a prey to the cruel treatment of police officers. The Member added that deserving constables should be encouraged and their pay improved.

Turning to the Department of Industries, the Member suggested the publication of a report detailing the activities of the department since it came under the control of Mr. Chacko and also enumerated the industrial possibilities of the State. He suggested that an expert from Madras should be got down with a view to advise the Department about the industrial possibilities of the State.

As regards the Excise Department, the Member observed that the sale of toddy should be brought down. The Member referred to the anomaly involved in combining in the same department the work of diminishing the sale of toddy, opium, etc., and of protecting the excise revenue. He therefore thought that the collection of excise revenue should rest with the Revenue Department.

The Canal Department was not working satisfactorily under the supervision of the P. W. D. authorities. It should be controlled by the Police Department and the assistance of the non-official public in scrutinising the strength of each boat in motion should be secured, giving them the right to make reports about the canal officers at fault when any boat contained more than the prescribed number of passengers.

96. Suggestions for improving the Public Service.

Mr. P. S. Mahomed (Member, Nominated) in the course of his representation drew attention to the practice of bribe-taking prevalent in Munsiffs' courts and pointed out, with special reference to the state of affairs in the Alleppey Munsiff's courts, how in the various stages in the execution of a decree, proceedings were unduly delayed by the clerks who could not be made to do the needful in time, without being bribed periodically. The Member pointed out that it would be a great convenience if orders were passed by the Munsiffs while they were sitting on the bench, and not in their private rooms, and stated that the procedure suggested by him would, while giving publicity to the orders themselves, considerably minimise the chances of the parties being forced to give bribes to the clerks concerned to know the nature of the orders passed by the Munsiffs in particular cases. He also suggested that it would be a great advantage if the Munsiffs themselves would, while passing orders, fix the time-limit within which a notice ought to be served or fix the period within which a warrant should be issued after orders had once been passed. The Member then lamented the manifold irregularities existing at present in the preparation of decrees, the actual time taken in the preparation of each decree varying with the readiness or reluctance evinced by the parties in paying up the bribes due, and remarked that much improvement might be effected in this direction by the Munsiffs issuing orders to the effect that the preparation of a decree should not be delayed beyond one month from the date of judgment. With regard to the issue of copies of records also the Member suggested that a similar procedure fixing a time limit of 15 days would be beneficial. Coming to the delay in the disposal of suits, the Member observed that such pendency could be avoided, if only the Munsiffs would be prompt in framing the issues of any particular case within one month from the date on which the statement was filed. As regards criminal courts, the Member suggested that Magistrates who were too old should be retired from service as early as possible.

The Member then alluded to the circumstances under which the Motor Bus Inspector was originally appointed and pointed out how it had become impossible for one man to cope with the present increased work. He also remarked how the